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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 3926

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5638

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6989

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1837

RUFHCH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1919

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANJU 1370

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAININGEN 6E

RUCALAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUMGHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFCAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG 6E

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 07 KABUL 1527

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO; THE HAGUE FOR

A-DAM AND R-JAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 31 AUG 93

TAGS: PREL, MORS, NCAP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT AUG 24-30, 1987

REF: KABUL 1466

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN ISLAMABAD,
PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING
ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PARAS 4 AND 5.)

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3. SUMMARY:

A. TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: KABUL WAS QUIETER THAN IN PREVIOUS WEEKS AS FIGHTING, HEARD LAST WEEK ON ALL SIDES OF KABUL, NOW APPEARS FOCUSED FARTHER NORTH. THE REPORTING WEEK CONCLUDED WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE AT THE AIRPORT AND WHAT APPEARED TO BE EXPLOSIONS FROM INCOMING ORDNANCE. REFUGEES FROM DEVASTATED AREAS NORTH AND WEST OF THE CITY CONTINUED TO STREAM INTO KABUL WHERE THEY LARGELY HAVE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. A BTR DRIVEN BY A DRUNKEN SOVIET SOLDIER CRASHED INTO TWO SMALL SHOPS, DEMOLISHING BOTH AND KILLING ONE MAN. MEANWHILE SOVIET DEFENSIVE MEASURES IN THE CITY APPEAR TO BE TIGHTENING. REPORTS OF CONFUSION AT BAGRAM AIRBASE INCLUDE FACTIONAL FIGHTING OVER SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO ADOPT LOCAL WOME. IN AN APPARENTLY UNRELATED DEVELOPMENT, DRA PILOTS AT THE BASE MUTINIED, DRAWING A SOVIET RETALIATION THAT INCLUDED BOMBING OF DRA CADRE QUARTERS. A LARGE SOVIET DEPLOYMENT NORTHWARD DURING THE WEEK SIGNED MAJOR NEW FIGHTING PROBABLY NORTH OF CHARIKAR. DURING THE PAST TEN DAYS, REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN THE CITIES OF KANDAHAR, HERAT AND GHAZNI HAVE REACHED KABUL. REPORTS ALSO INDICATE SIGNIFICANT SOVIET CASUALTIES IN LOGAR AND ELSEWHERE. IN THE SHOMALI, MUCH OF THE RICH LOCAL GRAPE PRODUCTION NOT RUINED BY RECENT FIGHTING, IS BEING LEFT TO ROT ON THE VINE AS SOVIET TROOPS PREVENT VILLAGERS FROM RETURNING TO THEIR CROPS FOR THE HARVEST, NOW REACHING ITS PEAK. BOTH PRIME MINISTER KESHIMAND AND INTERIOR MINISTER GULABZOI ARE RUMORED TO BE IN MOSCOW.

B. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: THE MFA HAS CLAIMED THAT THE GENEVA TALKS WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 7. HASOOD HAS RETURNED TO THE PANJSHIR IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FROM SOME OF HIS COMMANDERS THAT HE HAD IGNORED THE PANJSHIR, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON HIS POLITICAL STRATEGY OF UNITING THE NORTH. THE ICRC CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS PRESENCE AMIDST REPORTS THAT THE DRA HAS RESUMED A DIALOGUE WITH ICRC ABOUT ITS ACCESS TO PRISONERS. AN AFGHAN REPORTS THAT THE REGIME HAS SENT ASSISTANCE 'INCLUDING WEAPONS AND MONEY' TO REBELS IN THE KURKAM AGENCY. END SUMMARY

4. KABUL PYROTECHNICS AND SECURITY:

KABUL EXPERIENCED AN UNUSUALLY QUIET WEEK AS MUCH OF THE FIGHTING THAT HAD BEEN OBSERVED AROUND KABUL IN PREVIOUS WEEKS APPEARED TO SHIFT NORTH. FIGHTING WAS OBSERVED ON ONE NIGHT TO THE SOUTH AND TO THE WEST AND NEAR THE AIRPORT AS THE REPORTING WEEK CONCLUDED. SOVIET FORCES HARDENED THEIR DEFENSES IN THE CITY, WITH CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD-SIDE BARRIER ADJACENT TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY, WHICH DRA SOLDIERS CLAIM IS TO STRENGTHEN THE EMBASSY'S DEFENSES AGAINST BOMBS. TWO GUARD TOWERS ON A SOVIET BASE ON PERIMETER ROAD HAVE ADDITIONAL ARMOR. ARMED SOVIET SQUADS HAVE INCREASED DAYTIME PATROLS IN THE CHICKEN STREET-FRUIT BAZAAR AREA SINCE A SOVIET

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SOLDIER STRANGLED A SHOPOWNER'S 13 YEAR OLD SON AND WOUNDED
 ANOTHER BOY EARLIER IN THE MONTH. ARMED SOVIET TROOPS WHO GUARD
 BUSES WHICH BRING SOVIET PERSONNEL TO THE AREA TO SHOP NOW
 REGULARLY WEAR HELMETS AND

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 07 KABUL 1527

—AUGUST 28: ARTILERY MUZZLE FLASHES SOUTH OF KARGHA LAKE WITH SOME IMPACTS NOTED IN THE PAGHMAN MOUNTAIN

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SLOPES SOUTH OF PAGHMAN TOWN. BEGINNING AT 1940 AND CONTINUING MOST OF THE NIGHT, ARTILLERY FIRED FROM SOUTH OF THE CITY INTO HIGH GROUND IN SOUTHERN KABUL - NORTHERN LOGAR PROVINCE WAS OBSERVED WITH CONTINUOUS FLASHES OF IMPACTING ROUNDS. LARGE WHITE FLASHES WERE ALSO OBSERVED TO THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST, POSSIBLY NIGHTTIME BOMBING.

--AUGUST 30-31: BEGINNING AT APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT (AUGUST 30) AND CONTINUING INTO EARLY AUGUST 31, DIPLOMATS HEARD LIGHT AND HEAVY MACHINE GUN FIRE NEAR THE AIRPORT, ACCOMPANIED BY THE SOUND OF EXPLOSIONS, POSSIBLY FROM INCOMING ORDNANCE. ARTILLERY FIRE COULD BE HEARD TO THE WEST, POSSIBLY CONFIRMING AFGHAN REPORTS OF OVERNIGHT ARTILLERY AND ROCKET ATTACKS INTO THE SHAKADARA AREA.

5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

A. AIR: AIR TRAFFIC WAS HEAVY DURING SEVERAL NIGHTS. HEAVY HELICOPTER TRAFFIC FROM KABUL TO THE WEST IN

THE EARLY MORNINGS HAS RESUMED, MOST OF THE FLIGHTS BEING SOVIET AIRCRAFT RATHER THAN DRA AS IN THE PAST TOTAL OF 38 IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED, UP SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S 22.

--AUGUST 25: AT 0130 TWO PAIRS OF JET FIGHTERS ARRIVED AT KABUL AIRPORT. ONE PAIR DEPARTED SOUTHEAST AT 0855. THE AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGIME'S FIRST "AIR FORCE DAY" CELEBRATED ON THE 25TH AT KABUL AIRPORT.

--AUGUST 27: AT 0520 TWELVE SOVIET HELICOPTERS LEFT KABUL HEADED WEST AT LOW ALTITUDE. BETWEEN 0830 AND 0900, 12-15 SOVIET HELICOPTERS DEPARTED KABUL TO THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST.

--AUGUST 28: TEN IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED.

--AUGUST WOC HEAVY AIR TRAFFIC, COMPRISING MOSTLY FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, ARRIVED AND DEPARTED. NINE FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT DEPARTED BETWEEN 2000 AND 2100.

--AUGUST 30: BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 0330 THERE WAS HEAVY HELICOPTER MOVEMENT, PRIMARILY DEPARTURES TO THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST.

B. VEHICULAR MOVEMENT: LARGE SOVIET ARMOR AND ARTILLERY CONVOYS MOVED NORTH DURING THE WEEK, SIGNALING A MAJOR NEW SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO THE NORTH OF KABUL. KABUL RESIDENTS ATTEMPTING TO TRAVEL NORTH ON AUGUST 27 WERE STOPPED AT CHARIKAR WHERE THEY WERE INFORMED THAT "FIGHTING TO THE NORTH" MADE FURTHER TRAVEL IMPOSSIBLE. SOME SOVIET CONVOY MOVEMENT NORTH WAS NOTED DURING THE WEEK, BUT INBOUND CONVOYS WERE OBSERVED ONLY EARLY IN THE WEEK. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING MOVEMENTS:

--AUGUST 24: AT 0630 FIFTY SOVIET TRUCKS (CARRYING COAL OR ASPHALT) EASTBOUND ON PERIMETER ROAD.

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INFO RUEHHU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1839

RUFHCH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1921

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1380

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION XPE OF 07 KABUL 1527

—AUGUST 25: AT 0600 SOVIET TRACKED ARTILLERY ACCOMPANIED BY AN MTLB ARMOR CONTROL VEHICLE WITH A MOUNTED MORTAR AND FOUR T-62 ANKS HEADED THROUGH KARTE PARWAN IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SALANG HIGHWAY. AT THE SAME TIME, 45 SOVIET FUEL TRUCKS MOVED EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD.

AT 1130 TWELVE SELF-PROPELLED GUNS, ACCOMPANIED BY ONE MTLB, HEADED NORTH FROM PERIMETER ROAD ON A TRACK THAT LEADS INTO THE SHOMALI. AT 1610 TEN TRACKED VEHICLES MOVED THROUGH WAZIR AKBAR KHAN (USED TO PROVIDE SECURITY AT KABUL AIRPORT DURING CEREMONIES LINKED TO AIR FORCE DAY.)

—AUGUST 26: AT 0445 THIRTY-FIVE COVERED TRUCKS MOVED NORTHWEST THROUGH SHARE MAU. BETWEEN 0500 AND 0540 A CONVOY OF OVER 100 DRA FUEL AND SUPPLY TRUCKS SNAKED THROUGH THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY HEADED WEST. AN AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMED THE SUPPLY CONVOY WAS HEADED FOR KANDAHAR. MUJAHIDIN SOURCES IN PESHAWAR DATES EARLIER HAD CLAIMED DESTRUCTION OF MAJOR DRA AMMUNITION STOCKS

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IN AN ATTACK ON A LARGE DRA AMMO DUMP NEAR KANDAHAR.)
 AT 0615 A MASSIVE SOVIET COLUMN, POSSIBLY LARGER THAN
 THAT SEEN MOVING INTO THE SHORALI AT THE BEGINNING
 OF THE AUGUST 7-15 SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN THAT REGION,
 MOVED NORTH OUT OF KABUL. IT INCLUDED BM-27 MULTIPLE ROCKET
 LAUNCHERS, TANKS AND ASSORTED ARMORED PERSONNEL
 CARRIERS. (COMMENT: SELF-PROPELLED GUNS OBSERVED HEADED NORTH
 THE PREVIOUS DAY MAY HAVE BEEN PART OF THE SAME MOVEMENT.)
 --AUGUST 27: AT 1115 A SOVIET FUEL CONVOY (UNIT ID 1032)
 MOVED UP THE SALANG HIGHWAY. AT 1730 THREE SOVIET MILITARY
 AMBULANCES MOVED VERY SLOWLY THROUGH SHARE MAU TO THE AIRPORT.
 INJURED MALES INSIDE, SOME WEARING BRACES RESTRICTING MOVEMENT
 SUCH AS USED FOR TRANSPORTING PATIENTS WITH SPINAL INJURIES,
 COULD BE SEEN. AT 1800 SIX SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES HEADED
 EAST ON JALALABAD ROAD.
 --AUGUST 28: A SOVIET/DRA CONVOY, REPORTEDLY
 BOUND FOR BADAKHSHAN, LEFT KABUL.
 --AUGUST 29: AT 0700 TWO SOVIET CONVOYS (UNIT ID'S 0011 AND
 0012) OF OVER 100 VEHICLES MERGED INTO A SINGLE NORTH-BOUND
 SALANG HIGHWAY CONVOY. AT 1500 A SOVIET FUEL CONVOY
 HEADED WEST THROUGH THE CITY.
 --CCMBAT IN THE PROVINCES --

6. KABUL PROVINCE (CITY DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED PARA 4.5):

A. KABUL-NORTH: AFGHANS REPORT THAT FROM MIR BACHCHEH KUT
 (34°45'N 69°08'E) TO QARABAGH (APPROXIMATELY 10 KMS)
 SOVIET TANKS REMAIN POSITIONED ALONG THE ROAD AND ARE
 PREVENTING LOCAL RESIDENTS FROM APPROACHING ROADSIDE VINEYARDS
 NOT DAMAGED IN THE RECENT FIGHTING WHICH ARE NOW READY FOR
 HARVEST. IN THE QARABAGH AREA SOVIET AND DRA TANKS HAVE DESTROYED
 MANY VINEYARDS. OTHER AFGHANS REPORT THAT SOVIET FORCES
 HAVE CLEARED THE ROADSIDES OF VEGETATION (VINEYARDS AND
 ORCHARDS) AND BUILDINGS FROM THE SALANG HIGHWAY TO BAGRAM
 (APPROXIMATELY 8 KMS). SOVIET AND DRA TROOPS ALSO HAD PLANTED
 MANY MINES IN THE AREA. A REGIME SOURCE CLAIMS THAT IN THE EARLY-
 MID AUGUST FIGHTING IN THE SHORALI, SOVIET AND DRA FORCES
 DESTROYED SHAKADANA BUT LOST SIX TO EIGHT HELICOPTERS IN THE
 FIGHTING. AN AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS MORE RECENT FIGHTING IN THE
 QARABAGH AREA WHERE ON AUGUST 27 HELICOPTERS WERE OBSERVED
 REMOVING SOVIET DEAD AND WOUNDED. ARTILLERY AND ROCKET FIRE
 BOMBARDED THE SHAKADANA AREA LATE ON AUGUST 30. DIPLOMATS ALSO
 HEARD ARTILLERY FIRE TO THE NORTH WHILE IN THE KANGHA AREA
 ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 28. (SEE PARA 16, MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS
 FOR REPORT ON FACTIONAL FIGHTING AND MUTINY AT BAGRAM AIRBASE.)

B. KABUL-WEST: ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 21 MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED
 THREE SOVIETS SOLDIERS IN THE CHANDAL BAI AREA, ACCORDING TO
 A REGULAR AFGHAN SOURCE. ARTILLERY FIRED INTO THE HILLS SOUTH
 OF PAGHAN ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 28.

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ACT: PI: COPIES: SGS G1 G2 G3 G4 G5 A6 CA CE CH CP REC ---

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UNITS: APT ASOTBD CID COSCOM DRMO HCD8G HQCHDT INSCOM ISC JFK LAO REP ---

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 07 KABUL 1527

C. KABUL - EAST: AFGHANS REPORT THAT TRAVELERS ON THE JALALABAD ROAD FACE EXTENSIVE INTERROGATION/DEBRIEFINGS ABOUT MUJAHIDIN LOCATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS AS THEY PASS THROUGH REGIME CHECKPOINTS IN THE SORUBI AREA. IN SORUBI THERE ARE REPORTED SHORTAGES OF TEA, SUGAR, COOKING OIL, SLOUR AND MEDICINES.

7. KANDAHAR: WOUNDED DRA PERSONNEL ARRIVING AT THE KABUL SARANDOI HOSPITAL DESCRIBE SERIOUS FIGHTING AT THE HERAT BAZAAR IN KANDAHAR AUGUST 27-29. KANDAHARIS REPORT A MUJAHIDIN ATTACK ON A COMMAND POINT INSIDE THE CITY AUGUST 20 WHICH RESULTED IN 29 DRA CASUALTIES AND AN AUGUST 16 ATTACK ON THE SHAN BAZAAR (FOR REGIME CADRES) AND A SEPARATE ATTACK IN THE AREA OF THE "GREEN BAZAAR" IN THE SAME PERIOD. THE LATTER ATTACK REPORTEDLY IGNITED A FIRE THAT BURNED FOR TWO DAYS, ACCORDING TO A RECENT TRAVELER FROM KANDAHAR. THE TRAVELER FURTHER REPORTED EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION WITHIN THE CITY WITH SOME VISIBLE DAMAGE

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TO ALMOST ALL BUILDINGS. THE MAIN CIVILIAN HOSPITAL HAS NO WINDOWS INTACT, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN A STERILE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FACILITY. THE TRAVELER ALSO REPORTS EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE MAIN KANDAHAR HOTEL. MUJAHIDIN FROM OUTSIDE THE CITY REPORTEDLY SWEPT THE CITY NIGHTLY. FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT ON SOME OCCASIONS APPROACH THE KANDAHAR AIRPORT IN A STEEP DIVE FROM 25-30,000 FEET RATHER THAN "CORKSCREW DOWN" AS IS DONE IN KABUL. A KANDAHAR RESIDENT REPORTS THAT NEARLY ALL RESIDENTS OF THE MALAJAT AREA HAVE FLED THE FIGHTING THERE IN JUNE AND JULY. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT FOLLOWS THAT DURING THE NINE WEEKS OF INTENSE FIGHTING IN AND AROUND KANDAHAR MUJAHIDIN SUPPLIES RAN LOW. MUJAHIDIN IN THE AREA USED A BRIEF, UNOFFICIAL TRUCE OVER THE EID HOLIDAY IN EARLY AUGUST TO RESUPPLY. A KANDAHARI IDENTIFIED THE CURRENT KANDAHAR GOVERNOR AS KARIM SARAI TEHAZI, A PARCHAN.

8. HERAT: A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN
ATTACKED HERAT AIRPORT AUGUST 22-23, CAUSING DAMAGE THAT
DISRUPTED SOME AIRPORTS OPERATIONS FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE
MUJAHIDIN ALSO REPORTEDLY ROCKETED THE PRINCIPAL HERAT
HOTEL. AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT RECENT FIGHTING IN THE
CITY DURING AUGUST 18-23.

9. LOGAR: A RELIABLE NON-AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT SOVIET CASUALTIES FROM FIGHTING AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN LOGAR HAVE BEEN HEAVY IN THE SECOND HALF OF AUGUST. SEPARATELY A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET CONVOY IN THE ALTIMUR AREA (33°45'N 69°10'E), RESULTING IN 20 SOVIET TROOPS KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS DESTROYED.

10. PAKTIA: ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT
WITH GOOD ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM PAKTIA,
MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED THREE SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES
IN THE MOIST AREA AUGUST 27. A FREQUENT AFGHAN
SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON AUGUST 25 MUJAHIDIN
ATTACKED A SOVIET VEHICLE CARRYING SOVIET TROOPS.
TEN SOVIETS DIED IN THE INCIDENT.

11. GHAZNI: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT SOURCING A RECENT TRAVELER'S REPORT STATES THAT ON AUGUST 27 THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE CITY OF GHAZNI. A SEPARATE AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN ON AUGUST 21 DESTROYED TWO SOVIET VEHICLES WITH MINES IN THE QARABAH AREA.

12. WARDAK: AN AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT IN JULY FIGHTING IN AND NEAR MAIDAM SHAR (SEE JULY SITREPS) SOVIET FORCES LOST 40 DEAD.

13. **BALKH:** A TRAVELER FROM MAZAR-I-SHARIF REPORTS THAT AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF AND DESCENDING INTO THE CITY'S

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AIRPORT FOLLOW A "CORKSCREW" PATTERN AS IS DONE IN
KABUL BECAUSE OF A FEAR OF MUJAHIDIN ANTI-AIR CAPABILITY IN THE
AREA.

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RUCLFNA/347 TFW HOODY AFB GA//IN//
RUFNSHH/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
RUEOAYB/FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10/CRI//
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14. LAGHMAN: RELIABLE DIPLOMATS REPORT TWO DRA/SOVIET
CONVOYS WENT TO LAGHMAN AUGUST 26.

15. HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS:

A. SOVIET BTR CRASHES INTO SHOP: SHORTLY AFTER 2100
HOURS ON AUGUST 26, A BTR FAILED TO NEGOTIATE A CORNER
AND CRASHED INTO A SMALL TEA HOUSE AND A STATIONERY
STORE. ACCORDING TO A NEIGHBOR, ONE MAN WAS KILLED
IN THE TEA HOUSE. THE NEIGHBOR CLAIMED THAT THE
DRIVER OF THE BTR WAS DRUNK. SOVIET TROOPS IMMEDIATELY
CORDED OFF THE AREA. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED FOUR
ARMORED VEHICLES AT THE SCENE AT APPROXIMATELY 2200.
AFTER MIDNIGHT THERE WAS SHOOTING REPORTED AT THE
SITE. SOVIET TROOPS SINCE HAVE BEEN SEEN ASSISTING
WITH REMOVAL OF THE DEBRIS.

B. NO REGIME ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES: REFUGEES WHO RECENTLY

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HAVE BEEN FLEEING INTO KABUL IN LARGE NUMBERS FROM THE PORTIONS OF SHORALI AND PASHMAN DEVASTATED BY RECENT SOVIET/DRA BOMBARDMENT REPORTEDLY RECEIVE NO ASSISTANCE FROM THE REGIME. AFGHANS RELATE SEEING LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES ARRIVING IN KOTE SANGI FROM THE WEST WITH VIRTUALLY NO BELONGINGS AND IN SOME CASES, NO SHOES. THE REFUGEES ARE LEFT TO FIND RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN THE CITY. MANY OF THOSE WHO DO NOT, ATTEMPT TO REACH PAKISTAN.

C. REGIME ASSISTANCE TO WOUNDED: AMPUTEES AND OTHER WOUNDED SARANDOI, ARMY AND KHAD TROOPS AT A REGIME HOSPITAL IN KABUL, ACCORDING TO ARECENT VISITOR, COMPLAIN THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO ASSISTANCE FROM THE REGIME DESPITE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR. ONE OBSERVED BITTERLY, "THEY EVEN PROMISED US HOUSES." A NON-AFGHAN MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL WHO WORKS IN AN AFGHAN SURGICAL FACILITY NOTES THAT MOST WAR-INJURIES, INCLUDING AMONG CIVILIANS, ARE CAUSED BY MINES. HE NOTES FURTHER THAT AT THE 250-BED CIVILIAN LAZIR AKBAR KHAN HOSPITAL PATIENTS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN MEDICINES, AS WELL AS OTHER SUPPLIES ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR CARE.

16. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

A. CONFUSION AND FIGHTING AT BAGRAM AIRBASE: MULTIPLE SOURCE REPORTING, INCLUDING BOTH AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC ACCOUNTS, ELABORATE ON REPORTS CARRIED PARA 6A REFTEL REGARDING SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO ABDUCT VILLAGE WOMEN AT A WEDDING CEREMONY IN THE BAGRAM AREA. ADDITIONAL REPORTING SINCE REFTEL CONFIRMS THE ESSENTIALS OF THE ORIGINAL REPORT BUT UNDERScores THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FIGHTING BETWEEN PARCHAMI AND KHALISI LOYALISTS WITHIN THE DRA FORCES IN THE AREA. PARCHAMIS REPORTEDLY ATTACKED KHALISI TROOPS WHO HAD ASSISTED THE SOVIETS IN THEIR ABDUCTION ATTEMPTS. (COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT ETHNIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL FACTORS WERE AT PLAY AS THE LARGELY PASHTUN KHALIS WERE SEEN BY THE LARGELY TAJIK PARCHAMIS AS AIDING THE SOVIETS ATTEMPT TO VICTIMIZE TAJIK VILLAGERS.) A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT KHALISI LEADER GULABZOI (ALSO POLITBURO MEMBER AND INTERIOR MINISTER) JOINED PROMINENT PARCHAMI MOHAMMED RAFIE (POLITBURO MEMBER AND DEFENSE MINISTER) IN A JOINT VISIT TO THE BAGRAM BASE AUGUST 16-17 TO TRY TO RESTORE ORDER. IN A SEPARATE BUT EQUALLY WELL-SUBSTANTIATED REPORT, IS DRA PILOTS AT BAGRAM AIRBASE REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO FLY ON AUGUST 22, PROTESTING UNSAFE FLYING CONDITIONS AS A RESULT OF IMPROVED HUMANITARIAN AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY. THE STRIKE REPORTEDLY LED TO FIGHTING IN WHICH SOME AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND WERE DAMAGED. RELIABLE DIPLOMATS REPORT THAT THE SOVIETS METALATED AT MORNING HOUSING OF THE STRIKING SOLDIERS WHICH WAS LOCATED NEAR THE AIRPORT. SOME FAMILY MEMBERS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WERE CASUALTIES IN THE MORNING. A SEPARATE BUT PROBABLY CORROBORATING REPORT NOTES THAT THE VILLAGES OF GALA-I-GOLAI AND GALA-I-YAZDASHI, LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE SOUTHERN TIP OF

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THE RUNWAY, WERE BOMBED EXTENSIVELY RECENTLY.

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY IALAMABAD IMMEDIATE 3931

RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 5643

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6994

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1842

RUFHCH/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1924

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1383

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RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

RUMHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFCAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

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POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF REPORTS OF GROWING DISSENSION WITHIN THE DRA AIR FORCE RANKS, THE REGIME HELD ITS FIRST ANNUAL AIR FORCE DAY ON AUGUST 25, WITH CEREMONIES ORGANIZED AT KABUL AIRPORT. THE REGIME'S MESSAGE CLEARLY SOUGHT TO UNDERSCORE THE DUTIES OF EACH AIRMAN AND ELABORATED BENEFITS SUPPOSEDLY MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM:

B. FUEL SHORTAGES AT KABUL AIRPORT: INABILITY OF INDIAN AIRLINES TO REFUEL AT KABUL AIRPORT, PROPTED BY "NON-AVAILABILITY OF FUEL IN KABUL", HAS CAUSED CANCELLATION OF ITS CARGO FLIGHTS UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER. INDIAN AIRLINES PASSENGER FLIGHTS ARE CONTINUING TO REFUEL ENROUTE (AT AMRITSAR).

C. SOVIET CASUALTIES: A NON-AFGHAN SOURCE, IN A REPORT SIMILAR TO AN OBSERVATION MADE RECENTLY BY AN EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT, CLAIMS THAT SOVIET

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DAY. TWO AEROFLOT FLIGHTS BROUGHT AFGHAN CHILDREN
BACK TO KABUL FROM THERE. KABUL MEDIA NOTED THAT
1700 CHILDREN IN ALL HAD RETURNED FROM A MONTH'S "REST"
IN SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA. A SEPARATE ARTICLE IN THE KABUL
MEDIA (KABUL NEW TIMES FOR AUGUST 25) NOTES THAT MEMBERSHIP IN
THE "SOVIET GRADUATES ASSOCIATION" (COMPOSED OF AFGHANS WHO HAVE
COMPLETED THEIR EDUCATION IN THE SOVIET UNION) NOW NUMBERS
6,000.

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19. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

CURRENTLY, ONE DOLLAR BUYS 174 AFGHANIS.

20. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

A. GENEVA PROXIMITY TALKS: FOLLOWING CLAIMS

BY CODOVEZ ASSISTANT PICCO THAT THE DRA HAD MADE NEW

PROPOSALS, THE MFA ON AUGUST 29 TOLD A SENIOR KABUL

DIPLOMAT THAT THE GENEVA TALKS WOULD RESUME SEPTEMBER 2

FOREIGN MINISTER WAKIL, WHO WILL VISIT VIENNA AND

BELGRADE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, WILL LEAD

THE DRA DELEGATION. PICCO REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT

ALL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE GENEVA TALKS FOR THE

PAST SIX MONTHS HAD BEEN ONLY WITH MOSCOW AND THAT THERE HAD

BEEN NO CONTACT WITH THE DRA UNTIL THEIR LATEST PROPOSALS.

B. MASOGO RETURNS TO PANJSHIR: ACCORDING TO

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A SENIOR NON-WESTERN DIPLOMAT, HASOOD HAS RETURNED TO THE PANJSHIR FOLLOWING DISSENSION AMONG SOME OF HIS COMPANERS WHO COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD FOR TOO LONG IGNORED THE PANJSHIR IN FAVOR OF HIS CAMPAIGN TO CONSOLIDATE POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL FARTHER NORTH.

C. ICRC EXPANSION: THE ICRC, ACCORDING TO ONE OF THEIR SENIOR KABUL STAFFERS, HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ORA'S RED CRESCENT SOCIETY TO ASSIST IN MAINTENANCE/EXPANSION OF KABUL'S HEALTH CLINICS. THE ICRC HOPES SOON TO FINALIZE AN AGREEMENT ENCOMPASSING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ICRC HOSPITAL FOR "WAR WOUNDED." THE 50-60 BED FACILITY WILL BE LAUNCHED AS SOON AS A SUITABLE BUILDING IS LOCATED. ICRC OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT THE ORA HAS RESUMED THE DIALOGUE ABOUT ICRC'S EFFORT TO EXTEND ITS PRISONER PROTECTION MANDATE TO AFGHANISTAN.

[REDACTED] THAT AUSTRIA WILL NOT HOST A ORA INTEREST SECTION IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE AUSTRIAN STRATEGY IS SIMPLY TO DELAY, INDEFINITELY, A DEFINITIVE ANSWER.

E. KURRAM REPRESENTATIVES REPORTEDLY OBTAIN ORA AID: AN AFGHAN WITH CONTACTS ON THE STAFF OF THE POPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE CLAIMS THAT ON AUGUST 21 POPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS MET WITH A DELEGATION FROM PAKISTAN'S KURRAM AGENCY, PROMISING WEAPONS AND MONEY FOR THE TRIBESMEN'S RESISTANCE TO CENTRAL PAKISTAN CONTROL. KABUL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED A PRESS CONFERENCE BY KURRAM AGENCY TRIBAL LEADERS IN KABUL ON AUGUST 22.

F. YURISH IN ANKARA: SARWAR YURISH, HEAD OF THE REGIME'S BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY AND MOST RECENTLY SERVING AS ENVOY TO VARIOUS MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN STATES, WAS A SHORT TIME AGO IN ANKARA WHERE HE WAS TURNED DOWN IN AN ATTEMPT TO MEET WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS AND LEFT WITHOUT EVEN HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE.

G. GENERAL KHAN IN KABUL: GENERAL ASGHAR KHAN, HEAD OF THE YEHRIU-ISTIGLAL PARTY, A MODERATE OPPOSITION PARTY IN PAKISTAN, AND HIS ENTOURAGE ARRIVED IN KABUL ON AUGUST 29 TO A WARM WELCOME.

H. COMPLAINTS OVER HEAVY NIGHT AIR TRAFFIC: A WELL-PLACED SOURCE REPORTS KABUL MEDIA ARE RECEIVING COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NIGHT AIR ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES. THE DROWNING AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY HAVE RAISED COMPLAINTS FROM SUCH INSTITUTIONS AS A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE CITY, SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE

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EFFECTIVE ANTI-AIR DEFENSES BY THE MUJAHIDIN, SOVIET AND
DRA AIRCRAFT INCREASINGLY ARE FLYING AT NIGHT.

21. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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